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International Terrorism: Hostage Seizures

A statistical overview of international terrorist hostage seizures from January 1968 through December 1982.

March 1983

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Terrorism: *The threat or use of violence for political purposes by individuals or groups, whether acting for or in opposition to established governmental authority, when such actions are intended to shock, stun, or intimidate a target group wider than the immediate victims. Terrorism has involved groups seeking to overthrow specific regimes, to rectify perceived national or group grievances, or to undermine international order as an end in itself.*

International Terrorism: *Terrorism conducted with the support of a foreign government or organization and/or directed against foreign nationals, institutions, or governments.*

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International Terrorism: Hostage Seizures

On 27 February 1980, the Dominican Republic's Embassy in Bogota, Colombia, hosted a reception attended by diplomats from 17 countries, including US Ambassador Diego Asencio. Amidst the measured cadences of international diplomacy, 12 members of the Colombian terrorist organization M-19, dressed in soccer uniforms, stormed the front of the building, exchanging gunfire with the guards. Simultaneously, other M-19 terrorists, already inside the Embassy and disguised as guests, drew their weapons and secured the building from within. During the takeover frightened diplomats shouted from Embassy windows alerting outsiders that there were wounded inside and warning that any precipitous police action might cause a massacre. The siege and negotiations dragged on for two months. Isolated and unsure of the pace of negotiations, all of the diplomats lived with the daily fear of death and some showed clear signs of depression and mental fatigue. Finally, on 27 April after weeks of careful negotiations, the Colombian Government reached an agreement with the terrorists ending this hostage-and-barricade situation. This single event focused worldwide attention on Colombia and catapulted the M-19 to new prominence as a terrorist group.

International terrorists have employed a wide variety of violent means in pursuit of their goals, including complex and stressful hostage-and-barricade operations similar to the one described above. While such hostage seizures represent only a small portion of all terrorist activity, they are among the most spectacular types of event. Hostage-and-barricade situations require a governmental response, draw the attention of the international media, generally involve a well-trained and experienced terrorist organization, and often place their victims under severe and prolonged emotional stress.

During the last 15 years, hostage seizures have been conducted by 188 groups and have victimized more than 3,000 individuals from all parts of the world. This paper provides a statistical overview of terrorist kidnapings and hostage-and-barricade operations conducted during 1968-82.[1]

General Findings

- The annual number of hostage seizures has varied widely, ranging from one recorded incident in 1968 to 63 in 1975.

- Hostage seizures composed 540, or 7 percent, of the almost 8,000 terrorist attacks which occurred during this period. Of the 3,162 hostages seized, 91 victims were killed and 106 wounded. Approximately 20 percent of all hostage operations resulted in death or personal injury to the victims, compared with roughly 30 percent of all international terrorist attacks.

- Almost half of all hostage seizures occurred in Latin America, with much of the remainder roughly divided between Western Europe and the Middle East.

[1] See appendixes A-C for the terrorist groups responsible, nationalities of the victims, and countries in which these hostage seizures occurred. Appendix D is a chronology of selected terrorist incidents involving hostage seizures during the last 15 years.

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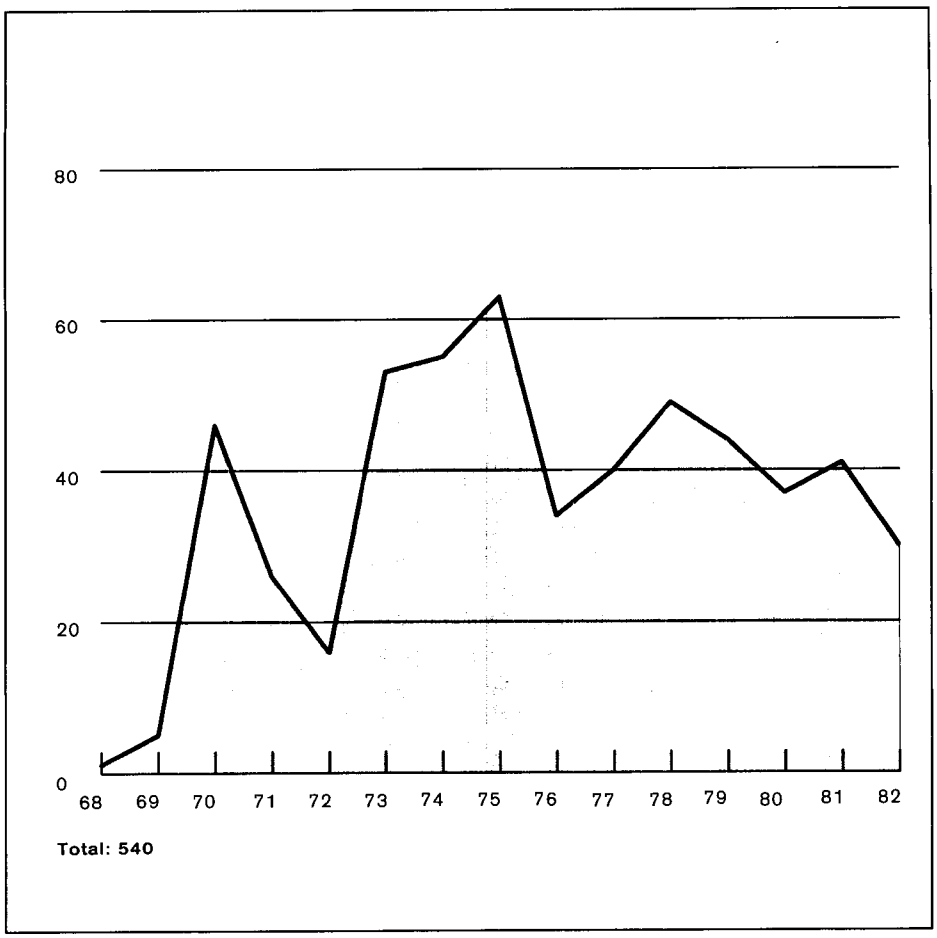
International Terrorist Incidents Involving Hostage Seizure

January 1968–December 1982



- Concessions in exchange for hostage release were demanded from 56 countries and 46 companies or private organizations. These demands included money, release of fellow terrorists held in jail, publication of a political statement, and safe departure to another country for the terrorists.

- Twenty-four countries—most often Cuba, Libya, Algeria, and South Yemen—have granted asylum to terrorists after a hostage seizure.

- The number of hostage seizures—both kidnapings and hostage-and-barricade operations—directed against diplomats as a discrete category of victim has been rising in recent years.

- Governments are dealing with hostage seizures more effectively. Records for the last three years show an increase in the number of incidents in which hostages were successfully rescued or freed with only minor concessions to the terrorists.

Types of Hostage Seizures

In this publication, we consider two types of hostage seizures: ***kidnapings***—defined as the seizure of one or more victims who are subsequently moved to a hideout—and ***hostage-and-barricade*** situations—

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defined as the seizure of a facility with whatever hostages are available.[2] In both cases, the release of hostages is made contingent on meeting the terrorists' demands.

Kidnapings. During 1968-82, we recorded 409 kidnapings involving 951 hostages. Although kidnapings occurred every year, most took place in the mid-1970s, when Argentine terrorists routinely kidnaped US businessmen for ransom. Kidnapers escaped with their hostages in more than 80 percent of all recorded attempts and collected a ransom in almost 70 percent of the cases in which a ransom was demanded. Kidnaping attacks resulted in 36 deaths, including seven US citizens, and 62 woundings, including 11 US citizens.

Hostage and Barricade. Since 1968 we have recorded 131 hostage-and-barricade operations, in which 2,211 victims from 45 countries were seized. Two-thirds of these operations were directed against embassies or consulates. Thirty terrorist groups conducted hostage-and-barricade operations in 46 countries, demands for money or political change were made on 56 governments, and at least 55 victims were killed and 44 wounded in these attacks. Our records show that, in 75 percent of the attacks, the terrorists achieved at least a portion of their demands, and in 44 percent they obtained safe passage from the scene.

Attacks in 1982

During 1982 international terrorists conducted 30 hostage seizures. This is 11 fewer than recorded in 1981. The most significant decrease occurred in Latin America, where the number declined from an average of 24 per year during 1968-81 to only 10 recorded incidents in 1982.

[2] A third category, skyjackings—the seizure of an airplane with whatever hostages are aboard—is covered in a separate publication.

One highly publicized incident took place on 7 August when two Armenian terrorists attempted a hostage seizure at the Ankara Airport. When their attempt failed, the terrorists fired into a group of passengers and exploded a bomb in a customs area. Nine people were killed (including one US citizen), and 70 were wounded. One terrorist was wounded by the police, and the other fled to an airport cafeteria where he seized hostages. He negotiated with the police for about 30 minutes but was killed when police stormed the cafeteria.

Major kidnapings during 1982 included six conducted by Kurdish rebels in Iraq, three by Turkish terrorists, and three by foreign terrorists in Lebanon. Two other kidnapings, highly publicized incidents involving Americans, occurred in July. As of early 1983, both cases remained unsolved and the fates of the victims unknown. In Beirut on 19 July, David Dodge, the Acting President of the American University, was abducted by unidentified gunmen. On 23 July nine tourists—Americans, Britains, and Australians—were seized in Zimbabwe by armed dissidents, who subsequently released only the three female hostages.

International Terrorist Groups

Since the beginning of 1968, a total of 188 terrorist groups from every part of the world have seized hostages (see appendix A). About 25 groups conduct hostage seizures in an average year. This average has decreased slightly even though the total number of groups conducting terrorist operations has increased. In 1970, for example, 49 groups claimed credit for some kind of terrorist attack, and 24 groups carried out hostage seizures. In 1975, 111 groups claimed credit for attacks, and 35 seized hostages. In 1981, 131 groups claimed credit for attacks, and 19 seized hostages. Our records show that hostages were successfully rescued by forces from Britain, the Philippines, Turkey, Italy,

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Cuba, and Mexico in 1980 and by forces from Indonesia, Bolivia, France, Pakistan, Poland, Sweden, Spain, and the Netherlands in 1981.

Although Palestinian terrorists have not been active in the past few years, they still conducted over 10 percent of all international attacks during the 15-year period, including the most hostage seizures. A total of 14 Palestinian terrorist groups conducted almost 100 hostage-seizure operations in 15 countries. These incidents ranged from the September 1972 Munich Olympic attacks by Black September and the May 1974 attack on Maalot by the Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine to relatively minor kidnapings conducted in Beirut and other Middle Eastern cities. Although most Palestinian attacks are directed against Israeli citizens, Jews and non-Jews from 15 other countries have been taken hostage.

The Peoples Revolutionary Army (ERP) in Argentina also often used hostage seizures to achieve a wide range of goals including publicity, financial gain, and the erosion of government authority. ERP, virtually wiped out during the mid-1970s, was a domestic group that also attacked foreigners in Argentina. Although it primarily kidnaped US businessmen and officials, it also seized citizens from Chile, Austria, Italy, Denmark, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, and France. Its operations included the June 1973 kidnaping of the president of Firestone's Buenos Aires subsidiary and two kidnapings of the president of a British firm—Roberts and Company—once in 1973, when he was released in exchange for a $2 million ransom, and again in 1975, when he was rescued after a police shootout.

Another group, the Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA) of Spain, primarily conducts domestic operations, although it often seizes foreigners in Spain to collect ransom or to discredit the Spanish regime. It has kidnaped at least one foreigner in Spain every year since 1970. These attacks have mostly been against officials or businessmen from other European countries.

Hostage-Seizure Victims

During the past 15 years, 3,162 victims from 73 countries (see appendix B) were taken hostage by international terrorists. West Europeans were the most frequent targets, followed by North Americans. Citizens from the other regions account for only about 35 percent of all hostage seizures. Diplomats and other official government representatives were seized in almost half of all hostage takings, while businessmen were the victims of another one-fourth of such attacks. Countries whose citizens have been the most frequently victimized are the United States, France, the United Kingdom, West Germany, and Italy. Attacks against those nationalities account for about half of all hostage seizures. Americans were by far the most often seized. Of the 540 hostage seizures, US citizens were victims in 155.

The number of countries whose citizens have been seized has remained rather constant since 1968. We recorded hostages from 16 countries in 1970, 19 in 1975, and 21 in 1981. This is in sharp contrast to other types of attacks, for which the number of countries involved has increased dramatically during the last 10 years.

Since 1968 government representatives have been taken hostage by international terrorists in 220 separate seizures. These representatives were from 57 different countries, most often the United States, France, West Germany, and the United Kingdom. Seizures occurred in 57 countries with almost half in Latin America, especially in Mexico, Brazil, and Colombia. More than 1,200 people were taken hostage in these attacks. The following incidents were among the most publicized:

- The M-19 attack on the Dominican Embassy in Bogota on 27 February 1980; 57 hostages were seized, including ambassadors from 11 countries.

- The Japanese Red Army attack on the US Consulate in Kuala Lumpur on 4 August 1975; 52 hostages were seized, including diplomats from the United States, Japan, Sweden, and Malaysia.

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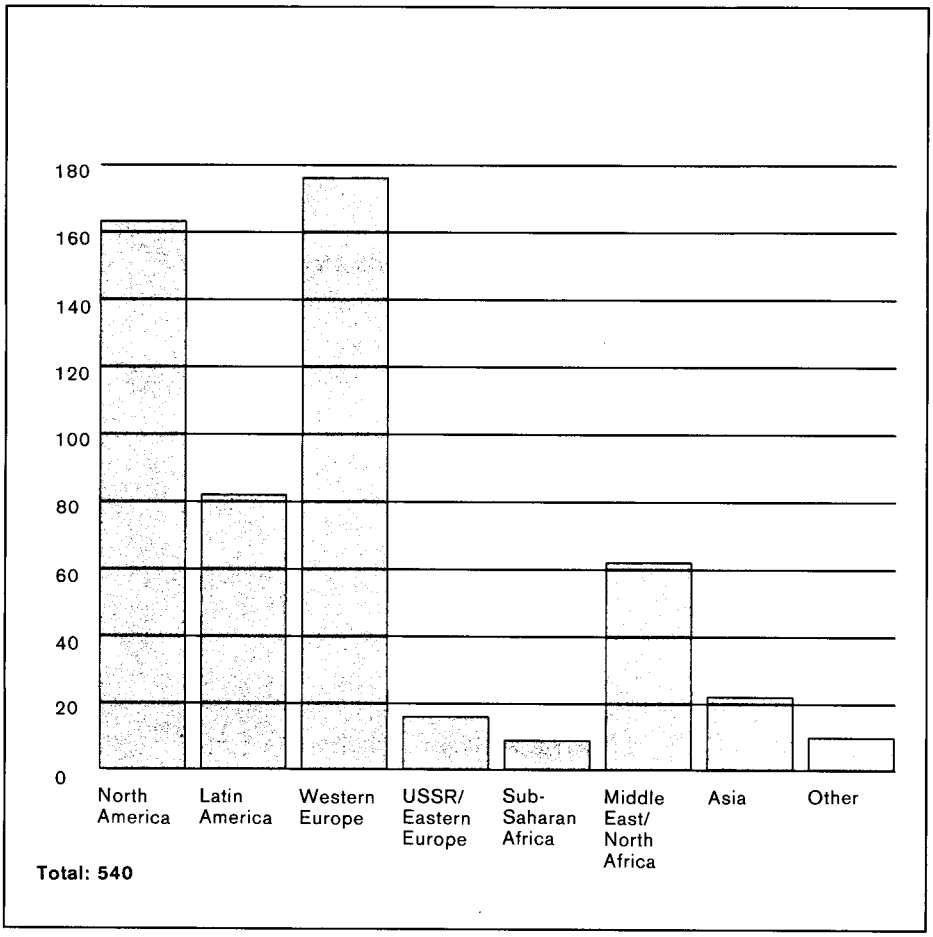
International Terrorist Incidents Involving Hostage Seizure, By Nationality of Victims

January 1968–December 1982



Locations of Attacks

Although hostage seizures were concentrated in Latin America and Western Europe, almost every major country experienced at least one such attack. Since 1968 hostage seizures have been recorded in 73 countries (see appendix C) and, on an average, occurred in about 25 different countries each year. More than one-third of the attacks, however, took place in only six countries. The greatest number occurred in Lebanon, which, until the 1982 Israeli invasion, was a virtual crossroads of international terrorism, with almost every major Middle Eastern terrorist group represented in Beirut. Other countries in which a large number of hostage seizures have occurred are El Salvador, Mexico, Guatemala, Colombia, and Ethiopia. In these countries attacks were generally carried out by indigenous groups against foreign targets, most often representatives from the United States and European countries.

Latin America. During 1968-82 we recorded 249 hostage seizures by international terrorists in Latin America, almost half of the world total. This primarily reflects domestic violence in several nations and the effects of its spillover into the international arena. Although citizens from 34 countries were held hostage in Latin

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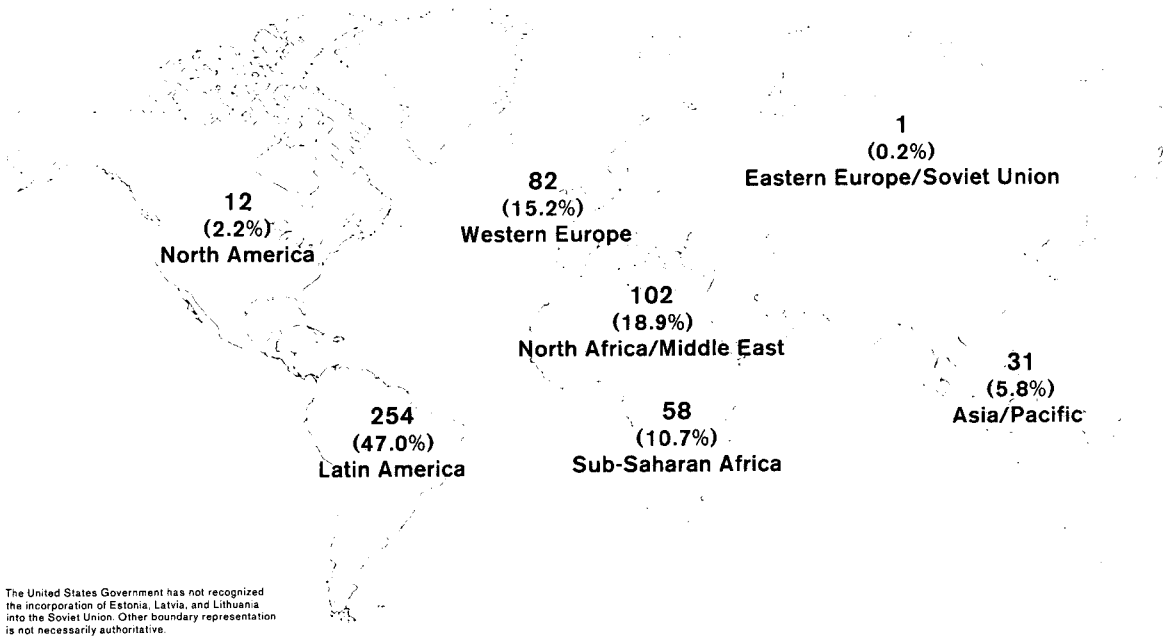
Number of International Terrorist Incidents Involving Hostage Seizure, 1968–82



The United States Government has not recognized the incorporation of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania into the Soviet Union. Other boundary representation is not necessarily authoritative.

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America, the kidnapings of US businessmen accounted for almost one-fourth of all hostage seizures in that region.

Western Europe. Every year since we began keeping records, both European and non-European terrorists have conducted operations in Western Europe, where they are likely to receive publicity and where movement is relatively easy. We have recorded 82 hostage-seizure incidents there since 1968. These seizures were most numerous during the mid-1970s when Palestinian terrorists were most active. The number decreased somewhat in the late 1970s but increased again in 1980-81, primarily because of Armenian and Red Brigades activity. During the 15 years, international terrorist groups from 27 countries conducted hostage-seizure operations in Western Europe against citizens from 32 countries. Half of all hostage seizures in Western Europe were carried out by non-European terrorists against non-European victims.

Outcomes of Hostage Seizures

Asylum for Terrorists. In more than 50 hostage-seizure cases, the terrorists were able to obtain safe passage for themselves and asylum in a friendly country. Although 24 countries have granted asylum to terrorists, Libya and Cuba were involved in almost half of the cases. Cuba has primarily granted asylum to leftwing groups in Latin America, such as the M-19 in Colombia and the Peoples Revolutionary Armed Forces in Mexico. Libya has granted asylum to many different groups, although most often to Palestinian terrorists. Libya has also granted asylum to terrorists involved in some of the more notorious incidents, such as the seizure of the US Consulate in Malaysia by the Japanese Red Army in 1975.

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Release of Hostages. From 1970 through 1982, meaningful negotiations resulted in the release of hostages in 42 instances.[3] In those incidents with successful outcomes:

- The terrorists often allowed outsiders to substitute for the hostages originally seized. The practice of hostage substitution suggests a willingness by the terrorists to negotiate in good faith and a certain dedication to reaching a settlement.

- The terrorists set fewer deadlines during negotiations, thereby allowing for ongoing discussions and avoiding the need to demonstrate the credibility of their threats.

- Few of the events were barricade situations. Barricade incidents are high-tension situations for all parties involved and tend to produce a psychological climate that reduces chances for a nonviolent outcome.

- The release of prisoners—perhaps the most difficult concession for a government to make—generally was not stipulated or maintained as a nonnegotiable demand by the terrorists.

[3] Of the 534 hostage seizures during this 12-year period, only 63 involved meaningful negotiations with a series of exchanges between terrorists and government; in 42 incidents all the hostages were released, in 21 incidents some or all of the hostages were killed.

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Appendix A

Terrorist Groups Responsible for Hostage Seizures

This list contains the names of organizations responsible either by claim or attribution for specific hostage seizures reflected in the statistics. Some of these seizures may have taken place without the approval or even the foreknowledge of the leaders of the organizations involved.

Certain of the claims of responsibility are probably false. Some of the names listed may be fictional ones invented by organizations not wishing to accept responsibility for particular actions or by criminals or psychotics for their own purposes. In other cases organizations may have claimed credit for (or have been blamed for) actions they did not take.

Group	Nationality
Afghanistan Dissidents Led by Sahruddin Baez	Afghanistan
Ananda Marg	India
April 19 Movement (M-19)	Colombia
Arab Liberation Front	Palestine
Arab National Youth Organization for the Liberation of Palestine	Palestine
Argentine Forces of Liberation	Argentina
Armed Forces of the Chadian Revolution	Chad
Armed Forces of the National Resistance	El Salvador
Armed Revolutionary Party of the People	El Salvador
Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA)	Armenia
Army of National Liberation	Colombia
Bandera Roja (Red Flag)	Venezuela
Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA) ETA-Military (ETA-M) ETA-Political/Military (ETA-PM)	Spain
Black June	Palestine
Black September Organization	Palestine
Black 1902	Thailand
Charles Martel Group	France
Cuba National Liberation Front	Cuba
Democratic Party for the Liberation of Mozambique	Mozambique
Eagles of the Palestinian Revolution	Lebanon
Eritrean Liberation Forces Eritrean Liberation Forces General Command	Ethiopia

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Group	Nationality
Farabundo Marti Liberation Forces	El Salvador
Fatah (Al Fatah)	Palestine
February 28 Popular League	El Salvador
Freedom for People Organization	Iran
Front for the Liberation of Quebec (FLQ)	Canada
Guerrilla Army of the Poor	Guatemala
Honduran Revolutionary Union	Honduras
Iberian Federation of Libertarian Youth	Spain
International Revolutionary Cells	West Germany
Invisible Ones	Colombia
January 12 Liberation Movement	Dominican Republic
January 31 Popular Front	Guatemala
Japanese Red Army	Japan
June 2 Movement	West Germany
Kurdish Liberation Army	Iraq
Kurdish United Socialist Party	Iraq
Marxist-Leninist Armed Propaganda Unit	Turkey
Montoneros	Argentina
Moro National Liberation Front	Philippines
National Democratic Popular Front	Mexico
National Liberation Front of Chad	Chad
National Liberation Party	Lebanon
National Organization of Cypriot Fighters	Cyprus
National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA)	Angola
October 1st Anti-Fascist Revolutionary Group (GRAPO)	Spain
Pakistan Liberation Army	Pakistan
Patriotic Union of Kurdistan	Iraq
Peoples Guerrilla Army	Guatemala
Peoples Liberation Armed Forces	Mexico
Peoples Revolutionary Armed Forces	Mexico
Peoples Revolutionary Army	Argentina
Peoples Revolutionary Vanguard	Brazil
Philippine Moslem Rebels	Philippines
Popular Colorado Movement	Paraguay
Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PDFLP)	Palestine
Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine General Command (PFLP-GC)	Palestine

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Group	Nationality
Popular Liberation Forces	El Salvador
Popular Movement for the Liberation of Cabinda	Angola
Popular Revolutionary Bloc	El Salvador
Proletarian Justice	Italy
Provisional Irish Republican Army	Ireland
Rebel Armed Forces	Guatemala
Red Army Faction (RAF)	West Germany
Red Brigades	Italy
Red Resistance Front	Netherlands
Revolutionary Action Front	Honduras
Revolutionary Armed Forces	Mexico
Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia	Colombia
Revolutionary Left (Dev Sol)	Turkey
Revolutionary Student Front	Mexico
Revolutionary Way (Dev Yol)	Turkey
Revolutionary Workers Party	El Salvador
Saiqa (Al Sai'qa)	Palestine/Syria
Secret Anti-Communist Democratic Front	Guatemala
September 23 Communist League	Mexico
Somali Liberation Front	Somalia
South Moluccans	Netherlands
Tupamaros	Uruguay
Turkish People's Liberation Front (TPLF)	Turkey
Turkish Revolutionary Youth Federation	Turkey
United Popular Action Front	El Salvador
Zaire People's Revolutionary Party	Zaire

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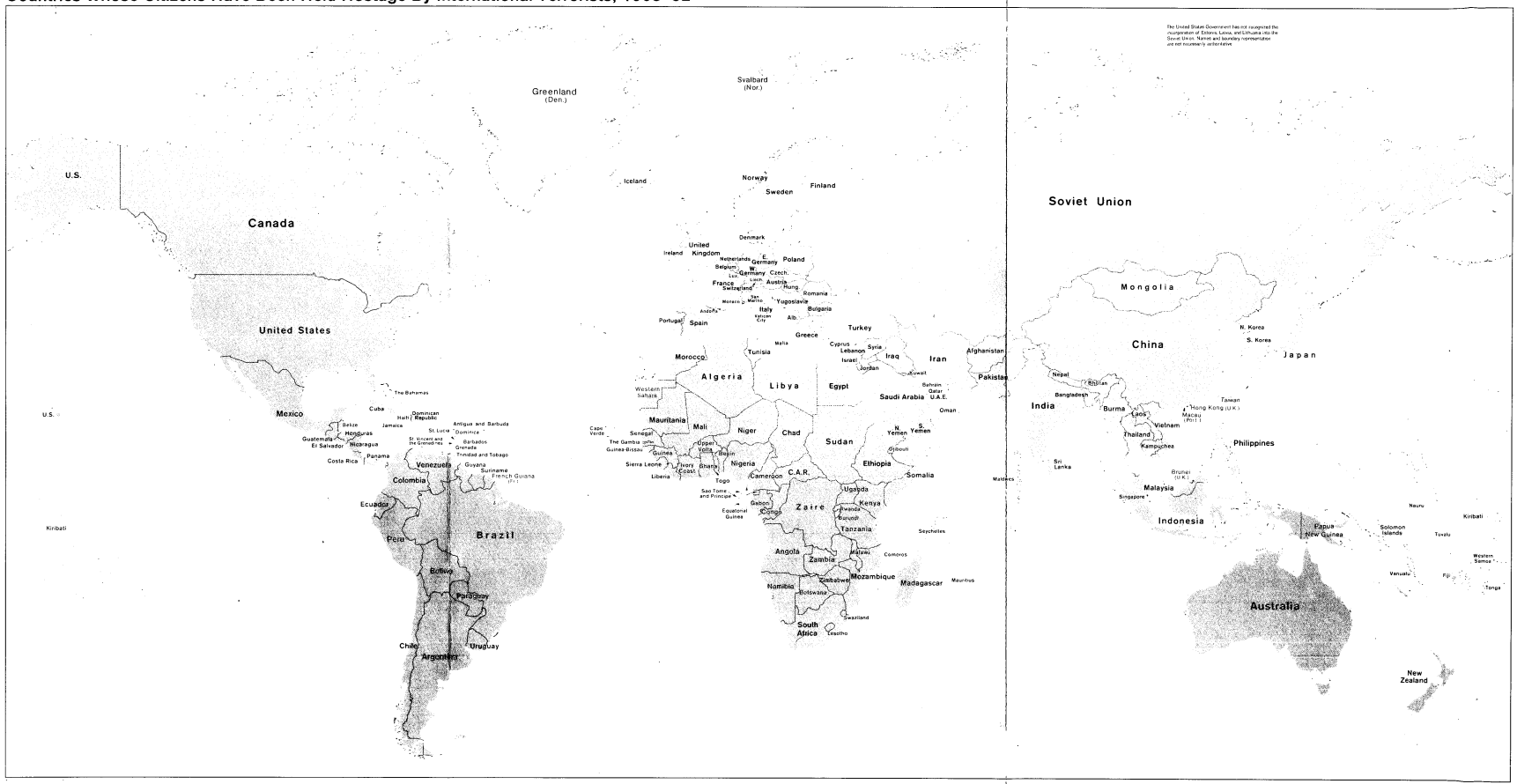
Appendix B

Countries Whose Citizens Have Been Held Hostage By International Terrorists, 1968–82



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Appendix C

Locations of International Terrorist Attacks Involving Hostage Seizure

Afghanistan	France	Peru
Algeria	Greece	Philippines
Angola	Guatemala	Saudi Arabia
Argentina	Haiti	Sierra Leone
Australia	Honduras	Somalia
Austria	Iran	South Africa
Bangladesh	Iraq	South Yemen (PDRY)
Belgium	Ireland	Soviet Union
Bolivia	Israel	Spain
Botswana	Italy	Sudan
Brazil	Jordan	Sweden
Burma	Kuwait	Switzerland
Burundi	Lebanon	Syria
Canada	Lesotho	Tanzania
Chad	Luxembourg	Thailand
Chile	Malaysia	Trinidad and Tobago
Colombia	Mexico	Tunisia
Costa Rica	Morocco	Turkey
Cuba	Mozambique	Uganda
Cyprus	Namibia	United Kingdom
Denmark	Netherlands	Uruguay
Dominican Republic	Nicaragua	Venezuela
Ecuador	Norway	West Germany
El Salvador	Pakistan	Zaire
Ethiopia	Paraguay	

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Appendix D

A Chronology of Selected Significant Hostage Seizures, 1968-82

1970

7 June

Jordan. Members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) seized 60 hostages, including American, British, Canadian, and West German citizens, at the Intercontinental and Philadelphia Hotels in Amman to protest the bombardment of Palestinian refugee camps by the Jordanian Army. The hostages were released on 12 June, the day after a cease-fire was arranged in Amman between the Jordanian Army and the Palestinian guerrillas. The hostages then joined 500 foreigners who were evacuated to Beirut in an airlift organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

31 July

Uruguay. US AID official Dan A. Mitrione was kidnaped by Tupamaro guerrillas who demanded the release of all political prisoners in Uruguay. The government refused to negotiate, and Mitrione was found dead in Montevideo.

5 October

Canada. James Richard Jasper Cross, the British Trade Commissioner in Quebec, was kidnaped from his Montreal home by the Front for the Liberation of Quebec (FLQ). Five days later another FLQ cell kidnaped the Quebec Minister of Labor, Guy La Porte. The kidnapers of Cross demanded the release of 23 FLQ members held by police. They also demanded that the families of the prisoners be provided safe passage by air from Montreal to Cuba or Algeria. The government rejected the demands, but offered safe conduct out of the country for the kidnapers. On 16 October the government invoked emergency powers, authorizing police and troops to conduct searches and arrest without warrants. On 18 October, the Minister's body was found in a car trunk. This led to a massive hunt for the kidnapers, with 500 individuals being arrested. Cross's kidnapers released him unharmed and surrendered on 3 December.

1 December

Spain. West German Honorary Consul, Eugen Biehl, was kidnaped near San Sebastian by members of the Basque separatist organization, ETA. His captors demanded the release of all ETA members imprisoned in Spain, including 16 Basque separatists who were on trial in Burgos for killing a police chief. Biehl was freed on Christmas day, but six separatists received death sentences, nine more were sentenced to terms of 12 to 70 years' imprisonment, and only one was acquitted.

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1971

8 January

Uruguay. Sir Geoffrey M. S. Jackson, British Ambassador to Uruguay, was kidnaped in Montevideo by the Tupamaros. The group demanded the release of 150 political prisoners. On 11 January President Pacheco Areco asked congress for a 90-day special police power to conduct a search. The 11-member legislative commission granted him a 40-day suspension of individual rights. The government remained firm in its refusal to negotiate for Jackson's release, and on 22 May offered a $50,000 reward for information on his whereabouts. On 6 September 106 Tupamaros, including their leader Raul Sendic, escaped from prison by digging a tunnel. On 8 September the Tupamaros announced that they no longer had a need to detain Jackson. He was found alive the next day on the steps of a parish church in a Montevideo residential district after an unidentified woman had phoned the UK Embassy.

10 February

Sweden. Two Croatian emigres seized the Yugoslav Consulate in Goteborg, took three staff members hostage, and demanded the release of a Croatian terrorist imprisoned in Yugoslavia. The Yugoslav Government refused to meet their demands, and the terrorists surrendered the next day to Swedish authorities. They were tried and sentenced to three and a half years' imprisonment. On 16 September 1972 they were released and flown to Madrid after three Croatians hijacked a Scandinavian airliner and demanded their freedom, along with the release of five Croatians involved in the assassination of the Yugoslav Ambassador on 7 April 1971.

17 May

Turkey. The Israeli Consul General in Istanbul, Ephraim Elrom, was kidnaped by four armed Turkish leftists. The government immediately began an intensive search for the kidnaped diplomat and his abductors. The kidnapers were members of the Turkish People's Liberation Front (TPLF). Deputy Premier Sadi Kocas reiterated in the Senate on 18 May that the government had "no intention of bargaining with a handful of adventurers." He also announced the arrest of a major suspect, Ayhan Yalin. The Israeli Government expressed its confidence in the action of the Turkish Government in attempting to save Elrom. The police found Elrom's body on 23 May in an apartment less than 500 meters from the Israeli Consulate.

1972

5 September

West Germany. The Black September Organization broke into the Israeli quarters at the Olympic Games in Munich and took nine hostages. They demanded the release of 236 guerrillas in Israeli jails, the release of German terrorists Andreas Baader and Ulrike Meinhof, and safe passage to a foreign country. During a shootout when police stormed the building, the hostages, five of the terrorists, and a West German policeman were killed. The three surviving terrorists, two of whom were wounded, were released after the hijacking of a Lufthansa jet the following month.

28 December

Thailand. Four members of the Black September Organization seized the Israeli Embassy in Bangkok and took 12 hostages, one of whom was the Israeli Ambassador to Cambodia. They demanded the release of 36

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terrorists imprisoned in Israel. The Israeli Government did not comply, but after 18 hours Thai authorities and the Egyptian Ambassador persuaded the terrorists to free their hostages in return for safe conduct to Cairo.

1973

23 January

Haiti. Three Haitians kidnaped US Ambassador Clinton E. Knox. Their initial demands were for the release of 31 political prisoners and a $500,000 ransom. Consul General Ward L. Christensen voluntarily joined Knox in captivity during the negotiations. The next day the terrorists reduced their demands to the release of 16 political prisoners, a ransom of $70,000, and safe conduct to Mexico. Knox and Christensen were released after the Haitian Government met the reduced demands. The terrorists and the released prisoners, accompanied by the Mexican Ambassador, were flown to Mexico, where the ransom money was taken from them and returned to Haiti. Mexico refused to accept the political prisoners, who then proceeded to Chile.

1 March

Sudan. Eight members of the Black September Organization seized the Saudi Embassy in Khartoum during a farewell reception for American Charge d'Affaires George Curtis Moore. They took 10 hostages, including Moore, incoming US Ambassador Cleo A. Noel, Jr., the Saudi Ambassador and his family, and the Belgian and Jordanian Charges. They demanded the release of Al Fatah leader Abu Daoud, other Palestinians held by Jordan and Israel, and members of the Baader-Meinhof Gang imprisoned in Germany. All the hostages except Noel, Moore, and the Belgian Charge, Guy Eid, were released, and the terrorists reduced their demands to the release of Abu Daoud and 16 Palestinians held by Jordan. The Government of Sudan refused to negotiate, and all the remaining hostages were killed. The terrorists surrendered on 6 March.

President Nimeiri denounced the incident as "a criminal act devoid of any reason or bravery," and the Sudanese Government banned further operations by Palestinian organizations. The trial of the terrorists began on 1 June 1974. They were convicted on 24 June and sentenced to life imprisonment, but President Nimeiri commuted their sentences to seven years and released them to the Palestine Liberation Organization the next day. The terrorists were then flown to Cairo, where Egyptian authorities imprisoned them.

4 May

Mexico. The US Consul General in Guadalajara, Terrence G. Leonhardy, was kidnaped by members of the Peoples Revolutionary Armed Forces, who demanded that 30 prisoners in Mexican jails be released and flown to Cuba. Mexican President Luis Echeverria Alvarez quickly agreed to the demands, and the 26 men and four women arrived in Havana on a Mexican airliner on 6 May.

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5 September

France. Five Palestinians seized the Saudi Embassy in Paris, took 13 hostages, and demanded that Jordan release imprisoned Al Fatah leader Abu Daoud. The Jordanian Government did not grant this demand, and the terrorists were allowed to leave France with four of their hostages. They surrendered to authorities and released their hostages in Kuwait on 8 September, after stops in Egypt, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. In October the terrorists were allowed to go to Syria.

1974

6 February

Kuwait. Five members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) seized the Japanese Embassy and took 12 hostages, including the Ambassador. They demanded that Japan arrange to fly two of their comrades and two members of the Japanese Red Army to Kuwait from Singapore, where they were imprisoned. Japan complied; Singapore cooperated. After the hostages were freed, the terrorists were granted safe passage to South Yemen.

22 March

Mexico. Members of the Peoples Liberation Armed Forces kidnaped American Vice Consul John Patterson near Hermosillo. They demanded a ransom of $500,000. Mrs. Patterson claimed that all attempts she made to deliver the ransom were unsuccessful. Patterson was found dead in the desert on 8 July.

21 April

Chad. Members of a Toubou rebel group calling themselves the Armed Forces of the Chadian Revolution kidnaped five Europeans in a raid on a medical research center. The rebels kept altering their demands, which revolved around the provision of money and arms. The West German Government agreed to pay a $1.2 million ransom and broadcast a manifesto for the release of one hostage. The terrorists threatened to execute a French hostage on 23 September if the French Government did not provide $880,000 and 88 tons of military supplies. The group granted the hostage a stay of execution when the French Government agreed to the cash ransom. A new faction of the Toubou rebels agreed to release the hostage.

15 May

Israel. The Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PDFLP) attacked a van bringing Arab women home from work, killing two and injuring one. They then proceeded to a school in the town of Maalot, where they shot a janitor and then herded more than 90 children from their dorms. The guerrillas asked that French Ambassador Hure and Romanian Ambassador Ion Covaci be brought to the school to act as mediators. The terrorists refused an Israeli demand to extend their deadline, and the Israelis decided to storm the building within half an hour of the deadline. One terrorist was shot as he ran to detonate an explosive; and, before they died, two others fired on the children, killing 16 of them and wounding 70 others. Five of the injured children died later. One of the Israeli commandos was also killed in the raid.

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13 September

Netherlands. Four members of the Japanese Red Army seized the French Embassy in The Hague and took 11 hostages, including the French Ambassador, Jacques Senard. They demanded a ransom of $1 million, an aircraft, and the release of a comrade imprisoned in France. The French and Dutch Governments met most of the demands; all hostages were released on 16 and 17 September, and all four terrorists were flown to Syria.

27 September

Dominican Republic. Members of the January 12 Liberation Movement kidnaped USIA Director Barbara Hutchison and then seized the Venezuelan Consulate in Santo Domingo, capturing the Consul, the Vice Consul, a Spanish priest, and four local employees. The terrorists demanded the release of 38 political prisoners and a ransom of $1 million. The Dominican Government refused to comply with the terrorists' demands, and the hostages were freed on 9 October in return for safe conduct to Panama.

1975

26 February

Argentina. Montoneros kidnaped John P. Egan, a retired businessman serving as the American Honorary Consul in Cordoba. They demanded that four captured guerrillas be shown on national television or else Egan would be killed. Egan was found dead the next day.

24 April

Sweden. Six West German radicals affiliated with the Red Army Faction (RAF) seized the West German Embassy in Stockholm, taking 12 hostages, including Ambassador Dietrich Stoecker. The military attache, Lt. Col. Andreas von Mirbach, was killed by the terrorists when Swedish police tried to enter the building. The terrorists demanded $20,000 and the release of 26 comrades imprisoned in West Germany. Although the West German Government had freed five terrorists earlier in the year after the kidnaping of a West Berlin mayoral candidate, this time it refused to meet the terrorists' demands. The terrorists then threatened to kill a hostage every hour until their demands were met, and economic attache Heinz Hillegaart was the first to die. An explosion took place in the Embassy just before midnight, killing one terrorist. The Swedish police captured others as they fled the building. The Swedish Government extradited all five terrorists to West Germany. One died of injuries received in the explosion; the other four were tried in Duesseldorf between 6 May 1976 and 20 July 1977. They were convicted and sentenced to two terms of life imprisonment.

19 May

Tanzania. Members of the Zaire People's Revolutionary Party (PRP) kidnaped a Dutch student and three American students from Stanford University from Gombe Stream Research Center in Tanzania. One student was released on 26 May to deliver the PRP's demand for $500,000, arms and ammunition, and the release of two comrades held in Tanzania. The

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Tanzanian Government refused to meet the terrorists' demands, and efforts by American diplomats and the families of the hostages to contact them were unsuccessful. Two hostages were released on 28 June and the last on 27 July after their families and Stanford University reportedly paid a ransom of $40,000.

4 August

Malaysia. Five members of the Japanese Red Army (JRA) seized the consular sections of the American and Swedish Embassies in Kuala Lumpur and took 52 hostages, including the Swedish Charge d'Affaires and the American Consul Robert S. Stebbins. The hostages were freed after Japan agreed to release five other members of the JRA. All 10 departed for Libya on 8 August.

15 September

Spain. Four members of the Black September Organization seized the Egyptian Embassy and threatened to kill the Ambassador and two aides unless Egypt renounced the Sinai agreement with Israel. The Ambassadors of Iraq, Kuwait, Algeria, and Jordan negotiated with the terrorists and joined the Egyptian Ambassador in signing a document denouncing this agreement. (The Egyptian Government later dismissed this statement as "a worthless piece of paper.") The terrorists, accompanied by the Iraqi and Algerian Ambassadors, flew to Algiers on 16 September and released their hostages there.

4 December

Netherlands. Six South Moluccans seized the Indonesian Consulate in Amsterdam, taking 47 hostages. They demanded independence for the South Moluccan Islands. Another group, which had seized a passenger train two days earlier, also demanded that the Dutch Government free five Moluccans, recognize a Moluccan government-in-exile, and provide safe conduct to an undisclosed destination. The Dutch Government rejected all these demands. The Moluccans holding the train surrendered on 12 December, and those in the Consulate did so on 18 December.

21 December

Austria. Six pro-Palestinian guerrillas—members of International Revolutionary Cells—attacked the OPEC Conference in Vienna, killing three persons, wounding seven others, and taking 81 hostages. The hostages included 11 OPEC oil ministers, among them Saudi Arabia's Shaykh Ahmed Zaki Yamani. The terrorists reportedly were two Palestinians, one Lebanese, two West Germans, and a Venezuelan, Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, also known as Carlos. Their communique denounced Iran as an "imperialist tool"; called Egyptian President Sadat a "leading traitor" for signing the Sinai accord with Israel; praised Iraq, Syria, and the Palestinians as "progressives"; and demanded that the Arab people have full sovereignty over their oil resources.

Austrian Chancellor Kreisky and Algerian Foreign Minister Bouteflika negotiated an agreement granting the terrorists safe conduct to Algeria in return for the release of 41 Austrian hostages and a declaration by the other hostages stating that they were voluntarily accompanying the terrorists. The terrorists left Vienna aboard an Austrian airliner on 22 December and released the remaining hostages in Algiers and Tripoli before surrendering to Algerian authorities on 23 December.

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1976 *26 September*

Syria. Members of Abu Nidal's Fatah dissident group Black June took over the Semiramis Hotel in Damascus and took 90 hostages. During a seven-hour gun battle, four of the hostages, including three women, and the terrorists' leader were killed. Thirty-four hostages and an undisclosed number of Syrian troops were wounded.

1977 *5 September*

West Germany. Hanns-Martin Schleyer, 62—President of the West German Employers' Association and the Confederation of Industry, a member of the board of directors of Mercedes-Benz, and West Germany's most famous industrialist—was kidnaped by members of the Red Army Faction. Between 10 and 15 terrorists firing submachineguns ambushed his two-car convoy at an intersection in Cologne during rush hour as he was being driven to his apartment. Schleyer's body was later found after negotiations failed.

1978 *13 March*

Netherlands. South Moluccan gunmen seized a government building and 71 employees. The terrorists demanded in a letter delivered to the Justice Ministry in The Hague the release of 21 South Moluccans imprisoned in Holland for previous terrorist acts, $13 million in cash, a bus to take them and the hostages to a local airport, a plane to fly them to Amsterdam's International Airport, and then a DC-10 jetliner to take them to an undisclosed destination. One hundred marines stormed the building after using an explosive device to distract the gunmen. There were no casualties among the attacking platoons, and the three gunmen were captured uninjured. Seven hostages were injured, one seriously, in the 20-minute assault that took place only moments before the planned slaying of two of the hostages.

31 July

France. Two Arab terrorists with Fatah connections seized the Iraqi Embassy in Paris. One terrorist fled, but the other took nine hostages and demanded that Britain release an Arab woman who had tried to kill the Iraqi Ambassador there. After eight hours of negotiation, the lone terrorist surrendered to French police and freed the hostages. Iraqi security guards then opened fire, wounding the terrorist and killing a policeman. The French police returned the fire, killing one Iraqi and wounding three others.

1979 *16 January*

El Salvador. Thirty members of the United Popular Action Front seized the Mexican Embassy and the offices of the OAS and the Red Cross, taking between 120 and 156 hostages. They demanded freedom for all political prisoners in El Salvador but settled for safe passage to Mexico after two days of negotiations.

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14 February

Afghanistan. Four Afghans kidnaped US Ambassador Adolph Dubs in Kabul and demanded the release of various "religious figures" held by the Afghan Government. Dubs was killed when Afghan police stormed the hotel room where he was being held. The US Government protested to the Afghan Government for not having tried to secure Dubs's release peacefully and drastically reduced its foreign aid programs there.

13 July

Turkey. Four Palestinians affiliated with Saiqa stormed the Egyptian Embassy, killing a policeman and two security guards and taking 20 hostages, including the Egyptian Ambassador. They demanded that Egypt free two Palestinians and that Turkey break relations with Egypt, recognize Palestine, and grant them safe conduct to an undisclosed destination. One hostage was freed during the negotiations and four others escaped. The rest were freed when the terrorists surrendered two days later.

14 November

Iran. A mob of Iranian students occupied the American Embassy in Tehran and captured 63 Americans, all but two of them Embassy personnel. Another three, who happened at the time to be at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, were held there.

The captors released one woman and two Marine Security Guards on 19 November and four women and six black men the next day. The remaining hostages were threatened at various times with trial as spies. Six members of the Embassy staff had escaped from the consular section during the takeover and found shelter at the Canadian Embassy. Canada closed its Embassy on 28 January 1980, and brought the six Americans out the next day.

An attempt to rescue the hostages failed on 25 April, resulting in the deaths of eight American military personnel. Richard Queen, a consular officer, was released on 10 July because of ill health.

On 3 November the Iranian militants turned the hostages over to the government. Negotiations leading to the release of the hostages began in Algiers on 10 November. Their actual release took place on 20 January 1981.

20 November

Saudi Arabia. Between 200 and 500 heavily armed rebels raided the Grand Mosque at Mecca during dawn prayers, seizing hundreds of worshippers of 30 nationalities. The attackers said that they sought reversal of Saudi modernization and abolition of television, professional soccer, and the employment of Saudi women outside the home.

Saudi National Guardsmen fought their way inside against the rebels, who were armed with submachineguns, rifles, and pistols. Most of the hostages escaped or were freed by the Saudis several hours after the takeover, but the rebels held out for two weeks. Saudi troops used tanks, heavy artillery, snipers, and tear and asphyxiating gases against the

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attackers, who had taken up sniper positions in the mosque's minarets. Frequent Saudi claims of victory were proved premature, and it was not until 3 December that Saudi troops routed the last of the rebels occupying the mosque's basement.

1980

11 January

El Salvador. Fifty members of the February 28 Popular League seized the Panamanian Embassy and took seven hostages, including the Ambassadors of Panama and Costa Rica. They demanded the release of several members of their group who had been arrested a month earlier. The Salvadoran Government complied, and the hostages were released on 14 January.

27 February

Colombia. M-19 terrorists seized the Embassy of the Dominican Republic in Bogota, capturing 30 diplomats from 17 countries, including 15 chiefs of mission. Ambassador Diego Asencio was the only American among them. The terrorists initially demanded the release of 311 political prisoners, a $50 million ransom, and government publication of their manifesto. They gradually reduced their demands and released all but 18 of their hostages. The remaining hostages, including Ambassador Asencio, were freed on 27 April in return for a $2.5 million ransom and passage to Cuba.

30 April

United Kingdom. Six Iranian Arabs belonging to an organization backed by the Iraqi Government seized the Iranian Embassy in London, took 26 hostages, and demanded that Iran release 91 political prisoners and grant more rights to its Arab minority. Five hostages were released during the next five days. On 5 May two hostages were killed and the rest threatened with execution. A Special Air Services team stormed the Embassy, rescued the remaining 19 hostages, and killed five of the six terrorists. Much of the Embassy was destroyed by fire.

1981

19 January

Colombia. A faction of the April 19 Movement (M-19) kidnaped Chester Bitterman, a translator for the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL). The group demanded that the SIL leave Colombia. The fate of Bitterman was clouded by a series of disagreements among factions of the M-19. His body was discovered on 7 March in an industrial/residential section of Bogota.

6 February

Lebanon. Pro-Syrian terrorists, calling themselves The Eagles of the Palestinian Revolution, kidnaped Jordanian Charge d'Affaires, Hisham Moheissen, in Beirut. Three security guards were killed. The terrorists threatened to kill Moheissen unless seven defecting Syrian Air Force pilots were returned, two from Jordan and five from Iraq. A 9 February deadline for compliance passed, but Moheissen's whereabouts remained unknown. Jordan recalled its Ambassador to Syria.

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19 Feburary

Spain. Striking during the night, ETA-PM terrorists kidnaped three honorary consuls from their homes in the Basque region. Three teams of masked guerrillas abducted the honorary consuls of Austria, El Salvador, and Uruguay. The first two resided in Bilbao; the latter in Pamplona.

On 28 February the ETA-PM released the honorary consuls unharmed. The hostages later reported they had been kept in a single room in a small country house but were well treated.

24 September

France. Four Armenian terrorists affiliated with the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) stormed the Turkish Consulate where police, alerted by the commotion, exchanged gunfire with the terrorists. One Turkish guard was killed, a vice consul seriously wounded, and two terrorists slightly wounded. Shortly after occupying the Consulate, the terrorists threw a typed tract out a window which stated in excellent French that they were the "ASALA, Suicide Commando Yeghia Kechichian, Van Operation." They demanded the release of all Armenian prisoners in Turkey plus five Turkish revolutionaries and five Kurds. They stated that if this did not happen within 12 hours, all hostages held in the Consulate would be executed and the building blown up.

Late in the afternoon, one of the wounded terrorists requested medical treatment and, apparently only slightly wounded, walked under his own power to an ambulance raising his arm in a "victory" signal. Negotiations with the French police continued, including arrangements for the second wounded terrorist to receive medical attention. Fifteen hours after occupying the Consulate, the terrorists surrendered and released their hostages unharmed. Several press reports stated that the terrorists used the hostages as shields as they went from the Consulate to police cars.

17 December

Italy. Two males disguised as plumbers kidnaped US Army Brig. Gen. James Dozier. The Red Brigades claimed the kidnaping in an anonymous telephone call to an Italian news agency office in Milan. Italian counterterrorist squads rescued the General from a Red Brigades safehouse on 28 January 1982.

1982

12 January

Guatemala. Thirteen guerrillas, affiliated with the January 31 Popular Front, seized the Brazilian Embassy. They took the Brazilian Ambassador to Guatemala and eight others hostage and demanded they be allowed to hold a press conference to denounce the Guatemalan Government. The guerrillas, armed with two guns and nine molotov cocktails, unfurled a flag of the January 31 Popular Front. On 13 May following negotiations, the hostages were released and the attackers bused to the airport. On 14 May they were flown to Merida, Mexico, along with several Brazilian and Guatemalan officials, and were granted political asylum by the Mexican Government. No injuries were reported during the incident, and all but the 13 guerrillas returned to Guatemala.

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